

1990 No. 99

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990

Made 14th March 1990

Coming into operation 1st April 1990

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 98 and 106 of, and Schedule 15 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(b), hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1990.

(2) In these regulations, “the principal regulations” means the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(c).

Amendment of regulation 20 of the principal regulations

2. In regulation 20 of the principal regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair)—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b) for “£26·50” there is substituted “£28·85”; and

(b) in paragraph (3) for “£7·40” there is substituted “£7·70”.

Amendment of Schedules to the principal regulations

3.—(1) In Schedule 1 to the principal regulations (voucher letter codes and face values — supply and replacement) in column 1 (type of optical appliance)—

(a) for paragraph 1 there is substituted the following—

“1. Glasses with single vision lenses—

(a) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 6 dioptries;
or

(b) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 4 dioptries
with a cylindrical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 2
dioptries.”;

(b) for paragraph 3(c) there is substituted the following—

(a) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14) as amended by S.I. 1984/1158 (N.I. 8)

(b) Formerly Department of Finance: see S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 3

(c) S.R. 1989 No. 114

“(c) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power (plus or minus) exceeding 6 dioptries; or”;

(c) for paragraph 4 there is substituted the following—

“4. Glasses with bifocal lenses—

(a) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 6 dioptries; or

(b) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 4 dioptries with a cylindrical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 2 dioptries.”;

(d) for paragraph 6(c) there is substituted the following—

“(c) of a spherical power (plus or minus) not exceeding 10 dioptries with a cylindrical power (plus or minus) exceeding 6 dioptries; or”.

(2) In column 3 of Schedule 1 to the principal regulations (face value of voucher) for each amount specified in column 1 of the Table below there shall be substituted the amount specified in relation to it in column 2 of that Table.

TABLE

Column 1 <i>Old amount</i>	Column 2 <i>New amount</i>
£17·00	£ 18·00
£28·00	£ 28·75
£46·00	£ 47·00
£32·75	£ 34·75
£58·00	£ 59·75
£98·00 (in both places where it appears)	£100·00
£26·50	£ 28·85

(3) In Schedule 2 to the principal regulations (prisms, tints, photochromic lenses, small and special glasses and complex appliances)—

(a) in paragraph 1(1)(a) (prism — single vision lens) for “£3·75” there is substituted “£4·00”;

(b) in paragraph 1(1)(b) (prism — other lens) for “£4·75” there is substituted “£5·00”;

(c) in paragraph 1(1)(c) (single vision tinted lens) for “£1·90” there is substituted “£2·00”;

(d) in paragraph 1(1)(d) (other tinted lens) for “£2·40” there is substituted “£2·50”;

(e) for paragraph 1(1)(e) (small glasses) there is substituted the following—

“(e) in respect of small glasses—

(i) by £34·50 in the case of supply or replacement of the glasses or repair or replacement of the whole frame,

- (ii) by £30·70 in the case of repair or replacement of the front of the frame, and
 - (iii) by £16·60 in the case of repair or replacement of a side of a frame;”;
 - (f) in paragraph 1(1)(f) (photochromic lenses) for “£1·90” there is substituted “£2·00” and for “£2·40” there is substituted “£2·50”;
 - (g) in paragraph 1(1)(g) (specially manufactured frames) for “£33·00” there is substituted “£34·50”;
 - (h) in paragraph 2(a) (minimum complex appliance payment — single vision lenses) for “£3·25” there is substituted “£3·50”; and
 - (i) in paragraph 2(b) (minimum complex appliance payment — other cases) for “£18·00” there is substituted “£18·75”.
- (4) For Schedule 3 to the principal regulations (voucher values — repair) there is substituted the Schedule 3 set out in the Schedule.

Application of regulations

4. The amendments made by regulations 2 and 3(2), (3) and (4) and the Schedule apply only in relation to a voucher—

- (a) accepted or used on or after 1st April 1990 pursuant to regulation 12 or regulation 18 of the principal regulations; or
- (b) sent to the Agency pursuant to regulation 14(2)(c) of the principal regulations in respect of cost incurred on or after that date.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 14th March 1990.

(L.S.)

J. Scott

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 14th March 1990.

(L.S.)

R. Miller

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations amend the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989 ("the principal regulations") which provide for payments to be made, by means of a voucher system, in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances.

Regulation 3(1)(a) and (c) alters the specification of appliances in respect of which vouchers may be used by redefining the upper limits of the spherical powers and cylindrical powers of appliances to which vouchers with letter codes A and D apply. Regulation 3(1)(b) and (d) clarifies the specification of appliances to which vouchers with letter codes C and F apply. These regulations also amend Schedules 1 and 3 to the principal regulations to increase by an average of 4.7 per cent the value of vouchers issued in respect of the cost of the supply and replacement of optical appliances (regulation 3(2)) and of the repair and replacement of appliances (regulation 3(4) and the Schedule). Regulation 2 makes consequential amendments to regulation 20 of the principal regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair). Regulation 3(3) increases the additional values for vouchers in respect of prisms, tints, photochromic lenses and special categories of appliances.